

Application No.: 10/564,863  
Paper Dated: March 16, 2007  
Reply to Office Action Dated November 17, 2006  
Attorney Docket No. 0388-060112

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1-4 are cancelled without prejudice. New claims 5-13 are added as follows.

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (New) A hole inspection system for a pierced container for inspecting an outwardly opened hole formed in a flexible container, comprising:

a pressing mechanism for pressing the flexible container from outside to cause the container to blow out a gas present therewithin through said hole;

a detecting mechanism for detecting a jet pressure of the gas blown out through the hole by said pressing mechanism, and

a determining mechanism for determining a size of said hole by comparing a detected value of the jet pressure in a predefined period with an upper limit pressure value corresponding to a maximum size of the hole and a lower limit pressure value corresponding to a minimum size of the hole.

Claim 6 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 5, wherein said pressing mechanism includes a pair of chucks for pressing the container from outside.

Claim 7 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 5, wherein there is provided a member for forming a pressure chamber by making tight contact with container outer peripheries around the hole communicating with the hole, and said detecting mechanism detects a pressure within the pressure chamber as the jet pressure of the gas.

Claim 8 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pressing operation is executed with a medical fluid being present within the container.

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Claim 9 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 5, wherein there is provided a resetting mechanism for restarting a reference pressure of a pressure detecting means for detecting the jet pressure before the pressing mechanism presses the flexible container from the outside.

Claim 10 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a support table supporting the container, wherein said pressing mechanism includes a pair of chucks moveable toward one another over the support table to press outer surface portions of the container.

Claim 11 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the detecting mechanism further comprises a pressure detecting means and a member moveable toward the support table, wherein with the container on the support table, the member makes tight contact with container outer peripheries around the hole to form a pressure chamber communicating with the hole, and said detecting mechanism detects a pressure within the pressure chamber as the pair of chucks engage the outer surface portions of the container to blow a jet pressure of the gas out through the hole.

Claim 12 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a resetting mechanism to restart a reference pressure of the pressure detecting means, wherein the pressure detecting means is reset before the chucks press outer surface portions of the flexible container.

Claim 13 (New) A hole inspection system for the pierced container as claimed in claim 12, wherein a medical fluid is present within the container.